

## **MISSISSIPPI'S LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

### ***TO ENHANCE, RESTORE, AND PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES AND IMPERILED HABITATS***

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The Mississippi Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is focused on benefiting at-risk wildlife species by restoring, enhancing, and protecting imperiled habitats on private lands. The longleaf pine ecosystem (*Pinus palustris*) region of the southeast, Blackland Prairie (BLP) regions of the northeast and central sections, and bottomland hardwood/wetland areas of the Delta were selected as those of greatest conservation need. Through conservation efforts, MDWFP and its partners plan to directly and indirectly impact approximately 196 at-risk wildlife species listed in Mississippi's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.



*Figure 1. Threatened gopher tortoise.*

- **Private landowners own approximately 24.5 million acres of the Mississippi's undeveloped landscape.** The Landowner Incentive Program is a vital initiative to help engage these interests in restoration, protection, and enhancement efforts.
- **In one year, LIP biologists have provided technical guidance to 17 landowners** on 12,656 acres.
- **In the longleaf pine region,** LIP has helped four landowners restore 460 acres (site preparation and planting) and one landowner enhance 72 acres (prescribed fire). Since 2006, LIP and Wildlife Mississippi (project partner) restored a combined 2100 acres. An additional 1500 acres are currently being enrolled for restoration.
- **Also within the longleaf region,** LIP has helped one landowner restore 200 acres of riparian habitat along the scenic Wolf River in Pearl River County.
- **In the native prairie region,** LIP is helping two landowners restore 426 acres of native warm season grasses.
- **In the Delta region,** LIP is helping one landowner protect 8,400 acres of bottomland hardwood and wetlands through conservation easements and one landowner restore 10 acres.



*Figure 2. Enhancing longleaf pine stand with prescribed fire.*